

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): A business method for determining and signaling content quality of preexisting independently created digital data provided between digital devices including a digital source and a digital receiver of the preexisting digital data content, the preexisting independently created digital data having a plurality of data records, ~~at least one record, the at least one record~~ each of the plurality of data records having a plurality of data fields, ~~at least one data field~~, the business method comprising the following steps:

accessing the preexisting independently created digital data;

assessing the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using one or more predefined sets of criteria;

assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data as a function of the one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

marking the preexisting independently created digital data with the assigned grade without changing and without accessing the content of the preexisting independently created digital data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically evaluates the marked grade to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the marked grade for another subsequent use of the preexisting digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data ~~for a particular subsequent use is a function of the marked grade and the particular subsequent use.~~

Claim 26 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating a portion of a file name to the grade.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The business method as recited in claim 26 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting independently created digital data.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising associating a grade file with the grade.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular data field of the plurality of data fields ~~at least one data field~~.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records ~~at least one record~~.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records ~~at least one record~~.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular field of the plurality of data fields ~~at least one data field~~.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is a predefined function.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to a database.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is an externally defined function.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to an independent database.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is numeric.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a color.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a Boolean.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the business is sales.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade corresponds to merchandise quality.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to direct marketing data.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to mailing addresses.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating the grade to a data set.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is customized by the business.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to documentation.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 47 wherein the grade corresponds to the version of the documentation.